

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 1-27, 29-42, and 44 are respectfully requested. The Examiner's consideration of the IDS included with the Advisory Action is acknowledged with appreciation.

Applicant maintains the arguments from the last Reply and they will not be repeated again for the sake of brevity. In response to Advisory Action, Applicants make the following points.

The Advisory Action stated that "...the WO 99/53353 reference ['353 reference], it is stated that the two profiled bodies can be taken apart to access the optical fiber." This is exactly Applicant's point. In the '353 reference, the profiled bodies must be taken apart to access the optical fiber. In the present invention, to access the optical fiber through the fiber access opening a craftsman merely runs a utility knife along the jacket to remove the same.

On the other hand, the Advisory Action states "[a]pplicant's strength member is surrounded by a cable jacket. Thus in order to access the applicant's optical fibers, the cable jacket has to be removed which would definitely disturb the strength members. This is statement is contrary to the objective evidence of record.

First, the cable jacket is not the strength member. Second, cutting the cable jacket does not disturb the strength member. Clearly, only the cable jacket need be cut away to access the optical fibers. Likewise, the Advisory Action admits the same. Furthermore, the Advisor Action does not cite any objective evidence of record to support its position. Rather, the Advisory Action merely makes an unsupported conclusion to maintain the rejection.

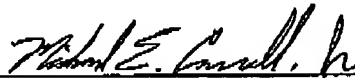
Therefore, Applicant requests a telephone interview to discuss the details of the present application.

This Reply is being file with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) with the appropriate fee. If any other fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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